

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Air Power
Quote of the Week

"Aviation is proof that, given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible."

— Eddie Rickenbacker

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Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Steven Allison, Lear Siegler Services, Inc., T-38 branch chief, makes time with his adopted dog, Racky, at his home Wednesday.

K-9 retires, adopted by Laughlin family

By Airman Timothy J. Stein
Staff writer

Recently, a Laughlin member got to retire with all the perks: a new home, new family and frequent games of fetch.

Racky, a former 47th Security Forces military working dog, was adopted out to Steven Allison, Lear Siegler Services, Inc., T-38 branch chief; his wife, Michelle; and son, Christopher.

Racky's adoption marks a first for Laughlin. It is the first Laughlin

dog adopted out under Public Law 106-446, commonly known as the "Robby" law.

The law, in effect since November 2000, made it possible for law enforcement agencies, former handlers and persons capable of caring for military working dogs to adopt them as pets after the dog is deemed no longer fit for military service.

Racky, who was declared unfit for military service in September

See 'Adoption,' page 4

AETC grows with changes

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Air Education and Training Command will grow by 453 duty positions as a result of fiscal year 2003 force structure changes.

The significant gains in AETC reflect most of the overall net growth Air Force-wide of 470 positions: 299 military authorizations, 142 civilian authorizations and 29 drill authorizations.

"These changes are going to enable us to provide the trained people needed for a ready and capable Air

Force," said Gen. Don Cook, AETC Commander. "In today's world of limited national resources we must strive for efficiencies."

The announcement specifies the force structure changes experienced by the Total Force made up of active duty, Guard and Reserve, officials said. Prior to making any decisions concerning a major movement of forces, the Air Force will fully comply with the spirit and requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.



Photo by Dave Niebergall

A 'general' dousing

Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, is sprayed down by his son, Matthew, and wife, Elizabeth, following a March 21 sortie. The colonel had learned that day he was nominated by President George W. Bush to the Senate for promotion to the rank of brigadier general.

the inside
Scoop

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The 47th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander discusses how people can help maintain base appearance.

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A new crop of Laughlin airmen graduate from First Term Airmen Center in March 22 ceremony.

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Up-to-date basketball play-off bracket and bowling standings are listed, as well as upcoming sporting events.

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Commanders' Corner

By **Col. George Doran**
47th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander

It's time to focus on base appearance

We've all felt it: warmer days, warmer nights, the days are getting longer, and the trees are starting to bud.

Spring is in the air, and it's time to look around your living and work areas and spruce up your environment.

As I drive around the base, I see residents starting to water their grass, our grounds contractor trimming trees and preparing for the summer growing season, and wing units starting to clean and spruce up their work areas.

Now is the time for family housing residents to visit the Pride store and stock up on tools of the trade for lawn and shrub care. Take the time to talk with these professionals and learn from their vast experience about

the proper way to water plants, grass and prune shrubs. These folks can get you started on the right path to a lush lawn and healthy plants.

Arbor Day is approaching, and the base will be planting trees and shrubs at selected locations. The Pride store will be getting its annual shipment of flowers around mid-April. Read the Border Eagle for the date and time. Go early because there is always a line.

Water conservation is a primary concern to wing leadership, not just because it is an expensive bill we

have to pay, but because it's the right thing to do. We have recently published grass watering hours for family housing residents. The times published are designed to ensure the

"Water conservation is a primary concern to wing leadership, not just because it is an expensive bill we have to pay, but because it is the right thing to do."

grass gets the maximum benefit from the water and that minimum water is wasted. Please abide by the watering hours; it's in everybody's best interest.

Laughlin enjoys the reputation of being an oasis in the middle of the desert. Let's all do our part to maintain that reputation and enhance the quality of life for all base personnel.

Top Three Talk

By **Senior Master Sgt. Charles Clonts**

47th Communications Squadron information systems flight superintendent



'Homesteading' not always in best interest for you or Air Force

Every active-duty member should know that the Air Force only requires personnel to accomplish a permanent change of station based on valid needs of the Air Force. But have you ever wondered how it is that one person somehow stays at the same base for six years or longer while another individual with the same Air Force Speciality Code and skill level rotates to three or more bases during the same period of time?

Staying at the same base for a long period of time, or homesteading,

can occur for a number of reasons, not the least of which is an individual's desire not to PCS.

The benefits of homesteading might seem obvious to some people: stability, developing a thorough knowledge of your unique mission and the cost savings for the Air Force are just a few. But did you know that, as a general rule of thumb, the Air Force discourages homesteading?

I used to wonder, given the benefits of homesteading, why the Air Force took this stance. I've come to realize that there is much more to

gain from having been stationed at numerous bases during a career than may meet the eye. First, the Air Force gets a more well-rounded individual who can better meet the needs of their country. Secondly, the Air Force and the individual learn how well they can adapt and perform in drastically different situations, or what I like to call, the cream floats to the top phenomenon.

I encourage you to seek new opportunities, volunteer for the challenging tasks, and demonstrate that, regardless of the situation, you're among the best of the best.



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Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to:
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"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47th FTW motto

FPCON Bravo

Laughlin is currently in Force Protection Condition Bravo. All people should remain vigilant and report suspicious activity to security forces at 298-5100.

Rising 6

By Staff Sgt. Victor Tamez Jr.
47th Contracting Squadron contracting specialist

Pride comes with uniform

The first time I had any interaction with the word pride was when it was imprinted on the T-shirt I wore under my pads as a football player. Our mascot was the courageous cougar, so naturally our shirts read "Cougar Pride."

My football coach instilled something in me I carry to this day. He often reminded my teammates and me, especially after a loss, to hold our heads up and have "cougar pride." He said that all he expected from us was to play hard. He would lecture on how football was just a game, and we had to have pride in ourselves, which would help both on and off the field.

Another time I encountered pride was while marching on the parade field for Air Force Basic Training Course graduation. I knew my family and friends were watching me as I passed in that deservedly earned uniform. It was very rewarding when they told me how proud they were of my accomplishment. Finally, all of those long, hectic and stressful days were over and those nice daily yellings had paid off.

Just wearing my uniform wrapped up all those feelings together and gave me that high sense of pride difficult to describe. I was proud to know I was part of a powerful military team, protecting the rights and freedoms of all the people of this great country.

There are times when pride and service just seem to sneak up and give you that indescribable feeling. Watching a very inspirational movie pertaining to the military may give you that feeling. To see and sometimes feel the pain our forefathers endured in protecting this wonderful nation can give you that feeling. After hearing an actual prisoner of war speak of all the tribulations he experienced while keeping his spirits high creates that feeling for me. It can also give one a sense of pride to hear "The Star Spangled Banner" played before a game or at retreat.

Just a couple of weeks of ago my 5-year-old daughter called and excitedly said she had something to tell me because I was an "Air

Force man." She began to recite The Pledge of Allegiance, and for some reason I paid close attention to every word. Initially I was speechless, and then I realized that it took my 5-year-old daughter for me to actually understand the significance of the pledge. Before it was just words I had memorized a long time ago.

There are times in our lives when we get into the habit of doing the same things routinely. We go to work day in and day out with no changes. During these times, it seems like we do not make a difference in anything. That is, until we watch or hear any of the things I mentioned previously and, at least for a brief moment, we feel this extreme feeling of pride and service.

I had the opportunity and privilege to be on

***"I was proud to know I was part of
a powerful military team,
protecting the rights and freedoms
of all the people of this great
country."***

the base honor guard team. As the years passed, I had risen to the top position on the team, which put me in charge. One of the duties that went with the position was to present a widow with the American flag, which had just been draped over the coffin of her loved one. Once the 21-gun salute and Taps were over, the flag was carefully folded, inspected and given to me. Then, I knelt in front of her. While handing her the flag, I recited a phrase that I will never forget: "On behalf of the President and this grateful nation, I present you this flag in honor of your loved one's devotion and dedication." And even though I performed this particular task many times, it always felt different – as if it were the first time. This always gave me a huge sense of pride.

Even though I was in charge, I gave others the opportunity to do this because, until you actually perform this task, you can never truly understand its significance. Every single person would come back enthusiastically to tell me of his or her experience. I could see in their faces the pride they were feeling. Some of these people actually became more motivated and asked to perform the next detail.

This is what pride will do to people and that, in itself, gives me extreme pride.

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.



Rick Rosborg
Col. Rick Rosborg
47th FTW Commander

Laughlin kudos

For the past five months, my wife and I have had the privilege of living as winter Texans at the base FamCamp. We have participated in many base activities and used most of the base facilities. Our stay has been so pleasant that we hope to return to Laughlin next winter.

It seems to us that the personnel at Laughlin, both military and civilian, have a unique attitude. This attitude is evident from the positive greeting one gets from the gate guards and all others on the base. The FamCamp staff of Billie and Tom go out of their way to assure everything runs as smoothly as possible. Although the commissary and exchange are small compared to many military bases and posts, their employees take the extra step to assure needs are met and unavailable items are obtained.

The most outstanding facility is the clinic. We have received wonderful care from all the doctors, physician assistants and the rest of the staff; and that is very much appreciated. In particular, the pharmacy, laboratory, optometry clinic and health and wellness center have been truly extraordinary.

We thoroughly enjoyed the barbecue picnic and hayride and are grateful to have had our holiday meals at the Chaparral Dining Facility. The fitness center is another facility from which we benefited.

It is without a doubt that Laughlin Air Force Base is a "best-kept secret," and the standard is excellence.

Sincerely,
Gerry C. Nolte
Army Master Sgt., retired



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Military affair

Garry Stehle, Del Rio Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Association president, chats with Capt. Rafael Carroll, Laughlin student pilot, at an MAA welcome Tuesday at Club XL. The MAA welcomes are held regularly to introduce new base arrivals to Del Rio attractions, businesses and organizations. The MAA is currently holding a membership drive. For details, call 775-3551.

'Adoption,' from page 1

because of a weak ligament in a left knee, started his military career in August 1992 when he was 2 years old. In January 1993 he became certified for drug detection. In March 1993 he got certified on patrol after completion of the patrol course. He was then assigned to the 648th Security Police Squadron at Brooks Air Force Base. He was re-assigned to Laughlin in 1999.

It was when Racky first got here that Allison first met him.

"The first time I saw Racky was in 1999," said Allison, a retired major. "[Security forces] was doing a random drug sweep. They brought Racky up here. He just came strolling into my cubicle. I fell in love with him the second I saw him."

Allison has had ideas of adopting Racky ever since.

"I had heard about [the adoption program] and wondered what would be the chances of us ever getting a dog like that," he said.

When he found out in January that Racky was up for adoption he wasted no time.

"I called the cops right away and told them I wanted that dog," said Allison.

That call started a two-month process which resulted in the Allisons adopting Racky.

The most important aspect of the adoption process is making sure the dog isn't going to be a danger to anyone on the outside, said Staff Sgt. Michael Sullivan, 47th Security Forces Squadron kennel master.

To ensure this, the dog is reviewed by a disposition board, said Sullivan. A video of the dog re-

acting to different stimuli and the dog's history are taken into account to see if the dog has a good enough disposition to be adopted.

"Every dog [in the Air Force] goes up to a disposition board when no longer eligible for military service," said Staff Sgt. Michael Kyker, 47th Security Forces Squadron military dog trainer. "Not every dog is found to be suitable for adoption. It is all about making sure these dogs are not a danger to anyone."

After Racky was approved by the board, a candidate had to be found to adopt him.

"In Racky's case, a candidate found us," said Kyker. "[Allison] heard Racky was up for adoption and called us right away."

Finding someone to take the dog doesn't mean the adoption process is over.

"Once a candidate is found, we have to make sure he is capable of taking care of the dog," said Sullivan.

If the candidate is cleared after an interview and application process, he is allowed to adopt the dog.

Allison had nothing but praise for Kyker and Sullivan, both of whom helped him throughout the whole adoption process.

"They spent an enormous time with my wife and me teaching us everything we needed to know about this dog," he said.

After three weeks in civilian life, Racky seems to be getting along fine.

"He loves it here," said Allison. "He has never received this kind of affection. He's a great dog and he deserves it. He has worked hard. He deserves a retirement just as nice as anybody else who puts in their time. [All these dogs] deserve a decent life after they can't be worked anymore."

Newsline

'Kick Butts Day' set

The health and wellness center and youth center will sponsor a "Kick Butts Day" from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday at the youth center.

The event, designed to benefit base children, will include a lecture on the harmful effects of tobacco and games and prizes.

For details, call 298-6464.

Base finance to close

The base finance office will close from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday. If there is an emergency, call the phone number posted on the finance door.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. James Oberg at 298-5159.

K-9 family day scheduled

A Laughlin K-9 family day is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 6 at the base picnic area near the FamCamp.

The event, open to all base members, families and their dogs, will include a hunting dog demonstration, flyball contest, security forces dog demonstration and a 4-H Club kids and obedience show.

For details, call 298-4754.

Flowers free to residents

Free flowers will be available to base residents at the pride store beginning in mid to late April. Plants being issued are marigold, petunias and dianthus.

Pride store normal hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The pride store will open from 8 a.m. to noon April 6.

Proper storage important

More boats and trailers are being parked in the housing area instead of the recreation parking lot. Therefore, base people are reminded that they must store their boats and trailers in the recreation parking lot in order to comply with base regulations.

For details, call 298-5830.

Ball field needs name

The 47th Services Division is taking suggestions to rename Laughlin AFB Field 1. The ball field, located across the street from the Leaning Pine Golf Course, will bear the name selected.

To submit suggestions, call Denise Booth at 298-5343.

Airmen complete two-week beginners' course

Compiled from staff reports

Eleven new airmen graduated from Laughlin's First-Term Airmen Center in a ceremony at the Enlisted Heritage Hall March 22.

The two-week course is designed to transition first-term, first-duty-station air-

men from training to a mission-oriented environment, said Master Sgt. Joseph Baker, Family Support Center superintendent and FTAC coordinator.

"FTAC provides a means of in-processing airmen with a solid foundation of base and [auxiliary] training programs and briefing in

order to prepare them to become mission-ready airmen in a minimum amount of time," said Baker.

This is accomplished by reinforcing military lessons first-term airmen learn and experience in basic military and technical training through briefings covering various topics such as finan-

cial planning, fitness, career progression, dress and appearance and Air Force benefits.

Airmen also learned about many services available to them.

"They become very familiar with services and organizations available," said Baker.



Airman 1st Class Jennifer Leblanc
(Class leader)
47th Comptroller Flight



Airman 1st Class John Firlik
47th Communications Squadron



Airman 1st Class Amber Kropaczewski
47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron



Airman 1st Class Heather Kunsman
47th Medical Operations Squadron



Airman 1st Class Bruce Lee
47th Communications Squadron



Airman 1st Class Jorge Rivera
47th Operations Support Squadron



Airman Lindsey Baccus
47th Operations Support Squadron



Airman Justin Hughes
47th Operations Support Squadron



Airman Admira Jones
47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron



Airman Amanda Williams
47th Operations Support Squadron



Airman Dominic Williams
47th Operations Support Squadron



The Air Force rewards good ideas with money.

Check out the IDEA

Program data system at

<https://>

ideas.satx.disa.mil, or call 298-5236.

DOD winning 30-year war against drugs

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

The incidence of service members using illegal drugs is at a 20-year low, evidence that the Department of Defense is winning the war against drug abuse in its ranks – a conflict that began during the Vietnam War.

Ana Maria Salazar, drug enforcement policy and support deputy assistant secretary of defense, said drug use by DOD personnel is down 90 percent compared to two decades ago. Just 2.6 percent of all service members reported drug use within the 30 days preceding their response to a 1998 survey, she said. More than 27 percent of respondents in a 1980 survey said they used illegal drugs in the preceding 30 days, she noted.

“Overall, the use of illegal drugs by service members is down. Drug use has decreased every year since we started monitoring it in 1980,” Salazar said.

She pointed to the effectiveness of DOD’s “zero tolerance” policy toward drug use, pre-employment and random drug testing and substance abuse education programs.

“Drug use is incompatible with military service,” she said. “Not tolerating drug use is the cornerstone of our deterrence program. Our system identifies users and ensures that they are punished. This approach deters drug use by other service members and promotes readiness.”

Salazar said drug use “has always been a national security concern” that affects both the Defense Department and civilian society. According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, illegal drugs cost the national economy \$110 billion in expenses and lost revenue in 1995.

“Drug use by service members threatens their readiness to defend our nation,” she said. “Drug use by

society in general damages our ability as a nation to have a strong economy with citizens who are focused on healthy lifestyles. This, in itself, threatens security.”

Almost a third of service members weren’t living drug-free lifestyles 20 years ago, but drug use had become a problem for the U.S. military much earlier, Salazar said. In 1970, increasing numbers of service members in Vietnam were found to be using heroin and other illegal drugs. This prompted President Richard Nixon in 1971 to direct the secretary of defense to initiate a program of drug prevention, identification of abusers and treatment.

Throughout “the post-Vietnam era” of the 1970s and early 1980s, many young Americans – military and civilian – experimented with illegal drugs like marijuana, LSD and cocaine. DOD had been conducting drug tests on service members since 1971, in large part to identify and treat heroin addicts who’d picked up the habit in Southeast Asia, Salazar said.

Ten years later, service members were found to be using more and different types of illegal drugs. Drug use in the military was prevalent, with the 1980 military survey identifying disturbing drug abuse problems among both enlisted members and junior officers, Salazar said.

“At that time, units with as many as one-third of their members using drugs were unprepared for combat,” she said.

The tripwire was an explosion aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz on May 26, 1981. The ship suffered 14 people dead, 48 injured and \$150 million in property losses, including seven aircraft destroyed and 11 damaged. DOD adopted its “zero tolerance” drug policy in 1982 after investigators indicated Nimitz crewmen’s drug use possibly contributed to the disaster.

“Drug users are more prone to



Photo courtesy of U.S. Customs

The Department of Defense is winning a war on drugs, like Ecstasy (shown above), which started during the Vietnam War. Instances of military members’ use of illegal drugs are at a 20-year low.

have accidents, to use poor judgment and more likely to injure themselves and others ... the disaster aboard the Nimitz is a grim reminder of this fact,” Salazar said. “As a group, drug users have demonstrated that they do not maintain the unit morale necessary to carry out the dangerous duties we demand of military personnel.”

As part of its drug deterrence efforts, “DOD must encourage its members to become active in drug education and community support,” Salazar said. Each of the services manages programs that distribute information on the dangers of drug use.

“Among the most effective educational tools are local community programs that focus on children and families,” she said. The annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award, for example, recognizes outstanding service-level drug awareness programs. Many of these programs feature service members interacting with military and civilian communities as educators and youth role models.

DOD officials are also alert for any new patterns in youth drug use, such as the illegal “designer drug”

Ecstasy. Service members’ use of Ecstasy, although small, increased from a prevalence of 0.004 percent in fiscal 1998 to 0.019 in 1999, Salazar said.

“Civilian police agencies tell us in 1999 elements of organized crime dramatically increased the amount of Ecstasy sold on the streets,” she said. “Large numbers of young people across the nation began to use this dangerous drug, which can cause brain damage, and some of them died as a result.”

DOD anticipated Ecstasy might be an emerging drug and mandated testing in 1997, Salazar said, noting “through testing we’ve deterred many young people from using the drug.”

Salazar credits DOD’s drug urinalysis program as being “one of our most effective programs” in fighting the war against drugs in the ranks.

“When any drug users are identified, appropriate punitive action is taken, depending on the program, and can range from mandatory rehabilitation to courts-martial,” she said. “The numbers speak for themselves in measuring the effectiveness of this program.”

Poor health, lost income, jail, discharge...**Ecstasy?** Maybe they should change the name.

American Fighter Pilot features Air Force pilots

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely
AETC News Service

A national television audience will get an insider's view of what it takes to become an F-15 pilot when CBS airs a new reality-based series.

After nearly two years of serving as a filming location, the Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., training mission is about to fly into the living rooms of millions of Americans when "American Fighter Pilot" premieres today at 8 p.m. (EST/PST) and 7 p.m. (CST).

Each week, viewers will see the professional and personal challenges F-15 student pilots face during 110 days of training. The series features in-depth interviews with student pilots, instructor pilots and academic instructors who trained the student pilots.

Tony Scott, director of "Top Gun," and Ridley Scott of "Black Hawk Down" fame are among the executive producers. Documentary filmmaker Jesse Negron and Brian Gadsinski, the first producer of the series "America's Most Wanted," are executive producers on the project.

Fully supported by the Air Force, Air Education and Training Command and the 325th Fighter Wing, the filming crew spent more than 18 months at Tyndall, shadowing the aspiring fighter pilots around the clock.

To get the necessary aerial footage, crews filmed from the back seat of numerous Tyndall F-15s and affixed cameras to others to capture hours of aerial combat training sessions. The filming didn't end there, however. In addition to from-the-cockpit shooting, the aspiring Eagle pilots were followed everywhere from their homes and churches to local businesses in a maximum effort to get inside the training, culture and lifestyles of fighter pilots.

"I believe the Air Force is in uncharted territory when it comes to 'American Fighter Pilot,'" said Lt. Col. David Freaney, 1st Fighter Squadron Commander, who was the operations officer at Tyndall's 95th Fighter Squadron when the three officers were students in the F-15 basic course. "The timing is perfect. Take a little patriotic spirit, combine that with the rise of reality TV and throw



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

A CBS cameraman films F-15s flying over the runway at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for the "American Fighter Pilot" series that premieres today.

in some of the best flying scenes that have ever been documented, and you have a can't-lose formula for success."

The Tyndall Web page at www.tyndall.af.mil has a link to a site that highlights background infor-

mation about the project and the work it took to create the show. It also contains production photos, a history of the 95th Fighter Squadron and a special feature called "Ask Mr. Bones," where people can ask questions of the 95th FS mascot.

Base welcomes new squadron commander

Compiled from staff reports

A new squadron commander recently joined Team XL.

Lt. Col. David Turner assumed command of the 85th Flying Training Squadron March 22.

85th Flying Training Squadron

Hometown: Brilliant, Ohio

Time in service: 17 1/2 years

Education: Master's degree in history from Wright State University in 1995 and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Akron in 1982
Previous assignments: Sheppard Air Force Base; Eielson AFB, Ala.; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Moody AFB, Ga.; MacDill AFB, Fla.; Shaw AFB, S.C.; Williams AFB, Ariz.

Greatest feat: Adopting my son

Leadership philosophy: Clearly communicate the mission to your people. Provide the tools for them to do the mission.

Remove obstacles that may impede their completion of the mission. Create the environment that allows them to say, "We did this ourselves" when the mission is completed, and then get out of their way.

Personal hero: Abraham Lincoln

Favorite quote: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." – Lincoln in closing his famous speech at Cooper Union, Feb. 27, 1860

Hobbies: Running and reading U.S. history

Bad habit: Eating too much junk food



Turner

Anti-terrorism: What can you do?

The best measure against anti-terrorism is preparation. For details, log on to www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html.

Friday, the Border Eagle. Wednesday, this newspaper:
<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

AETC announces May safety day

All units in Air Education and Training Command will stand down for half a day in May to encourage people to conduct their summer activities safely.

The safety down day, announced March 20 by Gen. Don Cook, AETC Commander, will take place at command units in the period of May 14-24.

"We are about to enter the '101 critical days of summer,' a historically high-risk period," the general said in his announcement. "We need to continue the focus on personal risk management that was started with the [Feb. 15] Air Force chief of staff's safety down day.

"The stand down should give every supervisor the opportunity to have 'in-shop meetings' to emphasize personal risk management, safety awareness and to refocus our sights as we enter this high-risk period. Driving safety should be foremost on our agendas."

During the summer of 2001, two people in the command died in single-vehicle mishaps. Air Force wide, 19 people died during last year's 101 critical days.

"Thus far this year, we have lost five members to fatal car and motorcycle crashes," Cook said. "These figures get my attention because they reflect people we love and cherish. We can do better than that.

"Regretfully, I recognize that not all mishaps are preventable, but most are ... and that is where we should focus our risk management efforts."

To view a safety video message from the general, click on the link on the commander's Web site at <http://www.aetc.randolph.af.mil/pa/aetc-cc/>.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

Logon to be recruiter

Compiled from staff reports

Those interested in becoming recruiters may now logon to an Air Education and Training Command Web site, which can help them determine if they are eligible for this special duty.

The AETC site offers people the option to choose what cities they would like to serve in as Air Force recruiters. They can make eight different selections, in order of preference. After making their selections, people need to supply some personal information, including name, rank, social security number, e-mail address and DSN number.

A comments box is also available for people to explain what they expect or desire from the Air Force recruiting career field.

After making these selections, one needs only to click on the submit button.

If you are interested in becoming a recruiter, logon to www.randolph.af.mil/aetc_forms/applyform.htm.

Retreat customs important

Compiled from staff reports

Retreat is played on base Monday through Friday except on holidays and weekends.

Retreat ceremonies are conducted on base at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. When retreat sounds, certain courtesies should be rendered. People who are outside should stop what

they are doing and face the flag or the direction of the music.

Military people in uniform should stand at parade rest during the sounding of retreat, then come to attention and salute during the National Anthem.

Civilian and military people who are not in uniform should stand at attention during the playing of the National Anthem and

place their right hand over their hearts. Men in civilian attire should remove head-dress with the right hand and hold it over their heart.

People driving must stop their vehicle, and everyone in the vehicle, regardless of rank, should sit at attention and remain silent until the music ends. Getting out of the vehicle and saluting is also an option.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Keep 'em flyin'

Senior Airman Justin Dillion, an aircraft maintainer, performs maintenance on an F-16 Fighting Falcon. Dillon is deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Southern Watch.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Capt. Susan L. Black

47th Medical Operations Squadron family advocacy officer

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to focus on the protection and care of our most vulnerable and trusting.

Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed each April since its first presidential proclamation in 1983. Since that time, individuals and organizations have joined together in April to raise the public's awareness of child abuse and its prevention.

According to Prevent Child Abuse America, the nation's leading child abuse prevention organization, more than three million children were reported to child protective service agencies as alleged victims of child abuse or neglect in 1998, and approximately one million of these reports were confirmed.

To draw attention to child abuse prevention, the family advocacy program, with support from the Helping Us Grow Stronger committee, will sponsor Parent University 2002. Parent University is aimed at educating parents on child and family health and wellness. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 13 at the chapel fellowship hall.

This year's program theme is "Celebrating Families." Elizabeth Rosborg will provide opening comments, and presenters will be on hand to discuss child discipline, behavioral approach, infant/toddler nutrition, successful relocation, pediatric self-screening, most common illnesses and spirituality and rearing children.

Certificates will be given to participants.

For more information or to make reservations, call 298-6422.

Please recycle this newspaper.



Laughlin Salutes

Promotions

To master sergeant

- ♦ Robin R. Rutzke, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron
- ♦ Elizabeth A. Smith, 47th Flying Training Wing

To technical sergeant

- ♦ Joseph W. Williams, 47th Security Forces Squadron

To staff sergeant

- ♦ Samuel E. Benischeck, 47th Communications Squadron
- ♦ Bridgette M. Chrisman, 47th Comptroller Flight
- ♦ Teresa A. Heisler,

47th Operations Support Squadron

- ♦ Eric J. Perez, 47th Security Forces Squadron

- ♦ Adolph Rodriguez Jr., 47th Security Forces Squadron

- ♦ James A. Surace, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

- ♦ Sandra Jean Williams, 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

To senior airman

- ♦ Joshua R. Aston, 47th Security Forces Squadron

- ♦ Tia M. Davis, 47th Operations Support Squadron

To airman first class

- ♦ Oscar R. Gonzalez, 47th Comptroller Flight

Chapel Schedule



Catholic

Today 7 p.m., Good Friday service
Saturday 9 p.m., Easter vigil mass
Sunday 9:30 a.m., Easter Sunday mass

Jewish

Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

Call Dr. Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

Friday 7 p.m., Unity in Community services

Protestant

Today Noon, Good Friday Protestant service
Sunday ● 6:30 a.m., Easter sunrise service, chapel lawn
● 7:30 a.m., Easter sunrise service breakfast, Chapel Fellowship Hall
● 11:15 a.m., Protestant service

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

Fraud, waste and abuse is everyone's problem. If you know of or suspect FWA, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

The XLER



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Tino Gomez

47th Civil Engineer Squadron local area network administrator

Hometown: Brackettville

Family: Wife, Norma; daughter, Leticia; son, Vicente

Time at Laughlin: 4 years

Time in service: 20 1/2 years in the Army and 4 years civil service at Laughlin

Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Listen more, improve two-way communication and offer lots of feedback.

Greatest accomplishment: Being flexible

Hobbies: Fishing

Bad habit: Working too much

Favorite film: None, but I enjoy comedy and action movies

Favorite musician: None. I enjoy so many of them.

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?

With my son to improve the father/son relationship

Easter eggs require proper preparation

By Airman 1st Class Bethany Baiocco
47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron
public health technician

Coloring eggs at Easter time can be a lot of fun for the entire family, but hard-boiled eggs used for hiding during Easter egg hunts must be prepared with care to prevent cracking the shells.

Easter eggs should also be hidden in places protected from dirt, pets and other potential sources of bacteria that could otherwise adhere to the shell's surface and contaminate the egg when the shell is broken prior to eating.

If eggs are exposed to room temperatures (72-74 degrees) or above for more than two hours, or if the shells are cracked, the eggs should not be eaten. Also, once found, Easter eggs must be promptly refrigerated until consumed.

Hard-boiled eggs used for hiding can be reasonably protected from dirt and cracking by nesting them in brightly colored Easter egg basket "grass," which will also make them easier for the kids to find.

Whole eggs should never be soft- or hard-boiled in a microwave oven, even if you're in a hurry. Several reports of people sustaining severe

eye injuries have occurred following the removal of eggs heated in this manner. Microwaved eggs have a tendency to burst upon exposure to room temperature air – even several minutes after removal from a microwave oven.

In addition, parents are discouraged from letting children play with pet chicks and ducklings at Easter time. Although fuzzy, cuddly and seemingly harmless, handling of these animals can transmit harmful bacteria, such as salmonella, which is dangerous to children.

For more details on Easter egg preparation, call 298-6380.

Friday, Border Eagle. Wednesday, this newspaper: <http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

Top personnel officer talks Stop-Loss, force management

By Airman 1st Class Susan McQueary
Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., Public Affairs

Releasing people from Stop-Loss restrictions while working to retain a quality career force are among the challenges facing the Air Force's top personnel chief.

Lt. Gen. Richard "Tex" Brown, Air Force personnel deputy chief of staff, addressed those issues and more while at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., to attend the Logistics Professional Banquet March 9.

Brown serves as the senior Air Force officer responsible for plans and policies involving military and civilian personnel management, including end-strength management, education and training, and compensation and resource distribution.

Following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the Air Force enacted Stop-Loss, which affected about 13,000 people. Since then, according to General Brown, 1,900 waiver requests have been processed, and 80 percent of those waivers have been approved.

"We want folks to know that we didn't want to implement Stop-Loss," Brown said. "We take the waiver approval process very seriously."

In March, following the second quarterly review of the program, 24 percent of the enlisted force and 14 percent of officers were released from Stop-Loss. However, many Air Force

members decided to remain in uniform.

"Fourteen percent of the officers and 12 percent of the enlisted members want to stay in the Air Force," Brown said. "I think it's exciting and I like what we're doing."

An initial 30-day review, conducted in early November, resulted in the continuation of Stop-Loss restrictions on all Air Force specialties, and another review is scheduled for April 1.

"I cannot predict now which jobs will be released," Brown said. "Our goal is to take away Stop-Loss completely."

Brown also discussed retention programs, to include the career assistance advisor program and its contribution to the Air Force.

"Every wing commander handpicks a person to be the CAA," Brown said. "They are trained at the personnel center, and they have access to career programs and to the Air Force Personnel Center. They're extremely valuable, and they pass on new ideas and information to keep people informed."

Another program in the works is called "Re-recruiting the Force." The program is a project being developed by the secretary of the Air Force. The program will pair members with the same job to discuss opportunities the Air Force offers.

"We want people to know they're special,"

Brown said. "We want people to know one person does matter and every individual counts."

Air Force members can also take advantage of the Selected Re-enlistment Bonus Program.

"We target the Air Force's needs," Brown said. "We look at supply and demand, respond to the market, and change it as necessary."

All personnel issues from bonuses to re-enlistments are maintained by the Air Force Military Personnel Data System Modernization system. While MILPDS had some initial startup problems, it will eventually benefit all Air Force members by creating one database for all installations to access, according to the general.

"It's the largest personnel undertaking the Air Force or any other corporation in America has seen," he said. "The concept is superb, and once we get it together, it will be exciting. Other branches of service will be asking us how we did it."

Brown asks Air Force members to remain patient with the system.

"The biggest problem we have is keeping our people informed," Brown said. "We want people to know that these are not dead issues and we're working on correcting the problems."

For more information about Stop-Loss, retention programs, promotions and other personnel issues, visit the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

**Thinking about
getting out?
Think again!**

Call Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis,
47th Flying Training Wing
career assistance adviser, at
298-5456 for guidance.



Sportslines

Three-point shootout results in

The results for the annual March Madness three-point shoot-out held Saturday at the XL Fitness Center are in. Rick Adamcik won men’s first place by beating Bob Hughes 13-11. Tricia Stucki took women’s first place by beating Suetta McAllister 6-1. Adamcik then beat Stucki with a score of 6-1 in the second round to win the overall championship.

Volleyball season to begin

Intramural volleyball season begins at Laughlin in April. Letters of intent can be picked up at the XL Fitness Center and are due Monday.

A coaches meeting will be at 2 p.m. Thursday.

For more information, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5326 or 5251.

Bowling standings

Team	Points	Team	Points
Boeing	114-78	Services	102-90
OSS	113-76	CE	90-102
FTW	106-86	Commtracting	70-122
DeCA	104-88	SFS	69-123

Basketball playoffs

Round 1	Round 2
87th Talons 57	84/85th 36
Monday	Wednesday
47th SFS 34	87th Talons 44
	8 p.m. April 1
86th 47	
Monday	LCSAM 73
LCSAM 57	Wednesday
	47th CES 76
Losers Bracket	47th SFS
	Thursday
	86th
	84/85th
	Thursday
	LCSAM
	Winner to be announced
	7 p.m. April 1
	Winner to be announced